

THE SPARTAN.
PETERSBURG,
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1857.

AGENTS.
Mr. A. R. Smith is our authorized agent at Columbia, North Carolina.

OUR FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

This number begins the fourteenth volume of the "Spartan." Another year has been added to its existence—another annual revolution has passed its features of a deeper sobriety—of a more expanded and developed age. To retrospect the past year is to stand point in both agreeable and interesting. To deny that we have had trials, oppositions, and troubles, incident to our vocation, would be to claim exemption from the influences of outward circumstances—to arrogate a position above that which is satisfied with that lot which chance or nature assigns him. While this, in a restricted sense, may be regarded as philosophically true, we have no special cause of dissatisfaction to chronicle during the past year. We have been cheered forward by an increasing list of friends and generous supporters, by smiles of encouragement and words of comfort. To day we feel that the existence of our paper is more vigorous than at any former period. Under considerable accessions to our list, and an increasing advertising patronage, we enter upon the fourteenth volume with renewed energies.

In the coming year we contemplate improvements satisfactory to ourselves and more advantageous to our readers and those who do business in our columns. Some of these are now—others more remote. But they will be realized in good time, as far as we can forecast the future.

Under this promise, we do not present friends try to enlist more in our behalf. A few additional names at each post office might readily be obtained—the whole swelling to a respectable aggregate; and the additional means thus brought to our aid will enable us to require the interest taken in the welfare of this paper.

We are grateful for the very liberal encouragement that has marked the present management of the "Spartan," and hopeful for the future. But we shall not relax effort. We aim to furnish a good paper—and one growing constantly better. Come up to our help, then, and bless us with a long list of prompt-paying customers, and see if we do not more than realize the promises now made.

SPARTANBURG AND UNION RAILROAD.

Attention is called to the card of the President, appointing a special meeting of all persons interested in the above road, at Union C. H., on the 5th of March next. The urgency of the call must command attention.

ACCIDENT.

On Thursday evening last, on the plantation of T. O. P. Vernon, Esq., while walling a deep well, the rope broke about twenty feet from the wall, precipitating a box of stone upon Kinsman Seay, Jr., the waller, inflicting severe injuries. He was promptly brought out of the well, a physician sent for, and removed to his home. Under careful attention from Dr. Russell he is recovering.

ROBBERY.

On Wednesday night, 11th instant, some account of a robbery broke into the store of Messrs. Lee & Briggs, and the Post Office adjoring, robbing both of money to the amount of about \$75. No goods were known to have been stolen from the premises. We understand that Lockwood's boy Hann and two other negroes have been committed to jail as parties to the burglary.

EXTRAIT D'EAU DE COLOGNE.

This exquisite toilette indispensable in all its parts, may be found at the Chemical Store of Messrs. Fisher & Heintz. A sample bottle of genuine Eau de Cologne is now before us, and we are therefore enabled to give an enlightened judgment upon its quality. These gentlemen are well supplied with every requisite, and we commend purchasers to them for selection.

FRUIT OUT OF SEASON.

We are again indebted to Mr. J. M. King, of Rich Hill, for a magnificent Winter Bell Pear, and also for several specimens of his Carolina Seedling, Gaily, and Yellow Limber-Twig Apple. Under the impulse given to fruit culture by our Agricultural Society a demand has sprung up for trees which cannot at present supply. He hopes, however, in a year or so, to be fully able to fill all orders directed to him.

THE TREASURY SURPLUS.

Much anxiety is felt among merchants and statesmen at the large surplus in the Treasury of the United States. To this fear, more than to any other reason, is to be attributed the desire in certain quarters to reduce the tariff. The banks and merchants look with alarm at the accumulation of specie in the treasury vaults, abstracting from trade its very life, and threatening a money crisis. At the end of the present fiscal year, without some action of Congress providing a safety-valve, the independent treasuries will have \$43,000,000 in their vaults. To guard against a commercial revolution something must be done by Congress.

MAGAZINES.

The "Ladies Book for March." This beautiful and welcome monthly is before us—in advance of those sent to regular subscribers. Godey knows the value of the press from the advantages he has already realized, and therefore sends early copies. This No. is full of handsome engravings—of art, fashion, patterns in embroidery, lace work, &c.—numbering 25 illustrations; while the literary department is increasing in excellence. Price, alone, \$3. The "Ladies Book and Spartan" one year, \$4, in advance.

Southern Literary Messenger for February.

This is a sterling periodical, and being Southern in sentiment, as well as in publication, commands itself to liberal support at the South. Richmond: Macfarlane, Ferguson & Co. \$3 per annum in advance.

CAROLINA.

We regret to learn that Mr. William Wood, a native of Chester district, acting as one of the runners on the Spartanburg and Union Railroad, in attempting to jump from his engine, in the neighborhood of Lyle's Ford, on Saturday afternoon last, (the engine having mounted the rails) fell, and his head striking the rail, was instantly killed. Mr. Wood leaves a wife but no children.—Carolina Times, Feb. 17.

J. W. Arnold was elected Sheriff of Laurens District, on Monday last.

THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

On the 25th December we comment with some severity upon the permission given to the President of the Blue Ridge Railroad to advocate its interests before the bar of the House in our Legislature, and, on the accession of Mr. ex-Speaker Middleton, held the permission to be unusual and the influence unparliamentary. We were well aware that precedents may be found in the action of several Legislatures to the old Charleston, Louisville, and Cincinnati road—our own included. But to our minds there seems to be a broad distinction between an enterprise in contemplation and one actually in progress, where State aid had been already granted, and the object was to remove any restrictions and safeguards for the protection of public trust funds. We have conversed with several members of the Legislature on the subject, and none of them has adduced a stronger precedent than the one above alluded to.

But we do not rest our vindication even on the point already made. We maintain that American parliamentary practice—in Congress, for instance—never allows influence of this character to approach either House nearer than the committee. And there is wisdom in this limitation of personal importunity. Written and printed statements may be resorted to—members may be posted outside the bodies—committees may inquire and report—and the sum of evidence for or against a measure is left to exercise whatever control it may legitimately exert upon legislation.

Legislative bodies are organized to pass laws for the good of the people—not to favor special interests at the expense of the general well. The privilege of being heard in defense of a private claim would never be granted by the Legislature—no matter how just in itself, or how necessary to the well-being of the party and his family to whom the debt was due. He must go to the committee, and the action of the body would depend upon the report of that organ of business. And why should not the same course be observed on the Blue Ridge Railroad, which is only greater in magnitude, but possessing less claim on the score of justice.

The editor of the Farmer and Planter may deprecate these "flings at the honorable body of legislators of this State," as much as he pleases; but, until the press is muzzled, as in France, we shall speak our minds freely in praise or censure of whatever may merit the one or provoke the other.

We scout the invitation to log-roll delicately conveyed by our respected contemporary. If our logs need rolling, certain it is we shall never give them rotary motion by such corrupt agency. A measure is right or wrong—If right, let its merits decide; if wrong, let it down. We had rather see purity in legislation than witness the success of a favorite measure through questionable influences.

PARTY TO THE MORGAN RIFLES.

Mr. Walker's gentlemanly assistant, Mr. J. Guinn Harris, was lucky in conceiving the idea of tendering a Social Party to our new uniformed company, the Morgan Rifles, Capt. G. W. H. Legg, on the evening of the 20th instant. He was not only a delicate compliment to the corps, but afforded a fine opportunity for gratifying the public with a sight of their handsome appearance, and also gave the community a specimen of his capacity in hotel keeping. And in all he was successful.

The new and capacious Hall—which is named after Washington—was courteously crowded with ladies and gentlemen, who enjoyed themselves in social converse until half-past ten, when supper was announced. Descending to the Dining-Room, two sumptuous tables were spread out in the perfection of culinary art, and when away that the entertainment, in this department, was a noble one, we fall short of the commendation bestowed on all hands upon Mrs. Walker's chef d'œuvre. Many pronounced it superior to any ever before gotten up in Spartanburg.

The whole affair passed off pleasantly and harmoniously, and no incident occurred to mar in the slightest degree the enjoyments of the night. It may not be amiss to say, that the new company turned out forty uniforms, and made a handsome display. When the ranks are filled, and all fully equipped, our District can boast a fine-looking corps of citizen soldiers from Spartanburg.

EDITORIAL CONVENTION.

The Newberry Star of the 15th inst. suggests a Convention of the proprietors of Newspapers in South Carolina, to be held, say at Columbia or Charleston, for the benefit of the press, and to introduce the cash system for subscription and advertising.

While we feel no particular enthusiasm on this subject, we are not averse to the proposed convention. Something beneficial might result from such meeting, even if its action did not prove a panacea for all the ills of newspaper publishers. We have some experience in this matter from the effort made a few years ago. Much was anticipated from that movement—but, apart from several good addresses and good dinners, it was a total failure in all practical advantage. To eat and drink is the worst possible preparation for the despatch of business.

If it shall prove acceptable to the press to hold the proposed convention, we hope that, prior to its meeting, each publisher (or editor) will give his thoughts to the kind of business which should be transacted, and be ready to refer all propositions to a committee for suggestion and digestion. Should nothing be ready in this way, diatribe to get home will defeat agreement upon anything that will pay interest upon the expense of going to Columbia or Charleston.

IMPEACHMENT OF A FEDERAL JUDGE.

An effort is being made in Congress to impeach the United States District Judge of Texas—Watrous. The Judiciary Committee reported on the 9th instant the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That John C. Watrous, United States District Judge for the district of Texas, be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors."

After debate the subject was postponed until the 21st—last Saturday.

Mr. Evans, of Texas, thought that it was due not only to Judge Watrous, but to the State of Texas, that the resolution should be agreed to, and that the judge should be placed upon his trial, and be afforded an opportunity to acquit himself before the Senate of the United States, if innocent of the charges that had been preferred against him. Soon after Judge Watrous was made a district judge of Texas, he fell under suspicion, and it became the settled opinion of a large majority of the people of Texas that he was engaged in fraudulent land speculations. That opinion was endorsed by the legislature of Texas in 1848, and he believed there were but few members of the bar—but very few of the citizens of Texas—who did not regard Judge Watrous as implicated in some manner in that class of litigation, and improperly so. Under these circumstances, it was but fair—it was but due to the purity of courts, and to the administration of justice—that a judge should be put upon trial. He knew nothing of Judge Watrous himself, was never in his court; but he believed there was no question that he was a man of eminent legal ability. As a representative of Texas, however, it was his duty to say that, while that judge continued to hold office, it would be equivalent to having no court at all, unless he should free himself from the suspicions that now attached to him.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BRITISH TREATY.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Courier and Inquirer writes:

"The amendments reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the British Treaty are as follows: Abrogation of the clause recognizing grants of Mosquito lands; Unrestricted cession to Honduras, by Great Britain, of the Bay Islands, so as to allow no resumption of British possession."

THE SELECTIVE FRANCHISE IN OHIO.

A bill was introduced in the lower branch of the legislature of Ohio upon the subject of the elective franchise of that State, which prohibits persons of African descent, either in whole or part, from exercising the privilege of voting at elections. The Stateman says:

"This bill makes it the duty of judges of elect to reject the votes of persons reputed to be, in whole or in part, of African descent, after taking testimony satisfactory to them of the fact of such descent. Any person reputed to be, in whole or in part, of African descent, who shall vote at an election, is subject to imprisonment in the county jail less than one nor more than six months. Persons who assist, counsel, or advise such persons to vote, to be subject to a fine in any sum not exceeding \$500, and to imprisonment in jail from one to six months. Prosecutions to be by indictment of the court of common pleas, and the act to be given special charge to grand juries. The act to take effect on its passage."

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A majority of 26 votes.

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